

As a broadcast employee, I can see the damage that the so-called "consolidation" has caused within the industry.

In some markets, two or three TV stations run the same newscast, instead of there being two or three different voices featuring varying views.

The balance between business and art is leaning too far toward business. Rather than playing great music, stations over-research what's available. Stations will only play (and labels will only record) what they are pretty sure will sell, rather than recording some great music and putting it out to see if it's noticed. Nobody takes chances, really. Most of it is pure pap, extremely watered-down, very safe, and much too forgettable.

Rather than hire professional radio people, the big three radio conglomerates are hiring whoever they can get the cheapest. And that shows in the crap they often broadcast. (How many of your female relatives do you consider "ho's"?)

If Clear Channel, for instance, could get away with paying on-air staffers a dollar an hour, they would do it. Programmers used to stay busy with the responsibility of running one or two stations. Now they might have four or five dumped on them. In these situations, none of the stations in the group get proper attention.

People who have spent their lives learning radio, are losing their jobs by the thousands.

Yes, I do believe the ownership restrictions prior to deregulation were a bit too tight. (As I recall, no company could own more than 14 radio stations across the country.) But to open it up to the current greed and megalomania was a serious mistake.

Thanks for letting me have a voice, however weak it might be becoming.

David